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INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

Monday, 23 March 2009, 09:27
S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 BAGHDAD 000791
SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 03/20/2029
TAGS PGOV, PREL, MOPS, MARR, PTER, IZ, EPET, EFIN
SUBJECT: CDA, CG AND PM DISCUSS EVOLVING SECURITY CONCERNS,
THE BUDGET, OIL CONTRACTS; CDA DELIVERS DEMARCHE ON CAMP ASHRAF
REF: A. SECSTATE 26167 B. BAGHDAD 00442

Classified By: Charge d' Affaires Patricia Butenis for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (S) Summary: In a meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki on March 19, Charge d' Affaires (CDA) Butenis and Commanding General MNC
12. (S) LTG Austin informed the PM that General Odierno was in Jordan and asked about the PM's recent trip to Australia. The PM said that the t

An Evolving Security Threat

13. (S) LTG Austin reminded the PM that this time last year they were in Basra, adding that "so much has changed since then." Basra was a defir
14. (S) LTG Austin said that the PM and General Odierno are of Q4. (S) LTG Austin said that the PM and General Odierno are of a like mind on t
15. (S) The PM said that "we must continue to develop the police." They need weapons and equipment and additional training in combating terrori
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"Terrorists can use our passports to move around freely with absolute anonymity." LTG Austin responded that the IP is twice as large as the IP

Politics and the Budget Process

16. (S) LTG Austin thanked the PM for his help with the SOI. "I thought that there would be more problems with them getting paid, but it now se

Former SOI Leader Adel Mashadani

17. (S) Updating the PM on the status of former SOI leader Adel Mashadani (REF B), XXXXXXXXXXXX. The PM responded that he is running out of pat
18. (S) The PM was insistent that we not wait too long, fearing that Mashadani might escape or that the GOI would be perceived as being complic
19. (S) Turning to the CDA, the PM asked about the arrival of Ambassador Hill. The CDA said that Ambassador Hill will have confirmation hearing

Oil Reform Proposals and Direct Contracts

110. (S) The CDA asked the PM about the status of the reform proposals from the oil symposium hosted by Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh in e
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good sign that the government had formalized the symposium's conclusions into recommendations for government decision, and asked if the package
111. (S) Sadiq Rikabi, political advisor to the PM, asked the PM to inquire about the USG's position on direct contracts with international oil

PM's Response to Demarche on the MEK

112. (S) The CDA informed the PM that she had been directed by Washington to deliver a demarche on Camp Ashraf (REF A). The CDA delivered the p
113. (S) The PM reassured the CDA that he would not take any action against the MEK. He said that he would abide by the humanitarian assurances